



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Scott Walker, Governor
Dennis G. Smith, Secretary

July 19, 2011

Lee Holloway, Chairman
Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Room 201, Courthouse
901 North 9th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear Chairman Holloway:

As you know, 2011 Act 32, the 2011-13 Biennial Budget Act, made a number of changes to Medicaid and FoodShare eligibility administration both in Milwaukee County and statewide. In the Milwaukee Enrollment Services (MILES) unit, the most significant change is that the budget replaces county workers currently in the unit with new state positions. To facilitate the transition to state positions, Act 32 directs the Department to discuss with Milwaukee County any issues relating to the employment of county employees with the state to provide services for MILES.

Our respective staff have had a number of discussions outlining the decisions necessary to implement the Act 32 provisions. Based on the statute and the discussions with county staff, we would propose to proceed according to the following description.

Act 32 provides that county workers previously hired into state MILES positions who had elected to remain in the county retirement system shall transfer into the Wisconsin Retirement System once they become vested in the county system.

In addition, Act 32 includes the following provisions regarding current Milwaukee County employees who choose to apply and may be hired into state MILES positions:

Seniority: Time worked under Milwaukee County will count towards the employee's state seniority.

Annual Leave: Will be based on the employee's state seniority date as prescribed under state law or applicable bargaining agreement.

Sick Leave Accrual: Leave that has been accrued as a Milwaukee County employee will be used to calculate the employee's state sick leave balance.

Retirement: Employees will remain in the Milwaukee County retirement system until becoming vested (for most employees, this is 5 years of service). During this time, the state will fund the employer share of the pension contribution for those employees. Once

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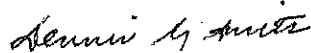
The budget provides MILES with a total of 385 FTE state positions, an increase over the current 59 state positions in the unit. The Department has begun the hiring process for the new positions, which will include Income Maintenance Specialists, Human Services Program Coordinators, supervisory, and various office and operations support positions. Current Milwaukee County employees will be certified as "eligible" for appointment consideration to an equivalent state position, but will be required to compete through a formal interview process. In the event an employee wishes to be considered for a position other than one equivalent to his/her current Milwaukee County position, he or she will be required to compete through a formal examination process in order to be certified as eligible for the position. A written examination for the Income Maintenance Specialist positions for these employees and any external applicants is anticipated to be conducted on Saturday August 13th. Examinations for all other positions will be done through an online applications process in the next few months.

We anticipate interviewing current Milwaukee County Economic Support Specialist employees for the Income Maintenance Specialist positions beginning in mid August. Interviews for the other classifications will likely be conducted in September and October. It is our intention to provide as much notice as possible to the employees and the Milwaukee County Human Resources Department regarding who has or has not been selected for hire into a state position.

As of July 2011, there are 220 county employees working in MILES. Based on the most current information available to us, 160 employees are vested in the county retirement system. Seven MILES state employees are former county employees who chose to remain in the county retirement system. All are vested in the system and, consequently, will transfer to the Wisconsin Retirement System as of July 1, 2011.

Thank you for all you have done to ensure a smooth transition. We realize there are other outstanding issues, but we wanted to provide this update.

Sincerely,



Dennis G. Smith
Secretary



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Scott Walker, Governor
Dennis G. Smith, Secretary

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Chris Abele
Milwaukee County Executive
Milwaukee County Courthouse
901 North 9th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear County Executive Abele:

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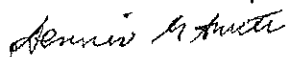
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